

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 20-31 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and amend claims 1-3 and 8 as follows:

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1. (Once Amended) A data storage system, comprising:

a first disk drive unit;
a second disk drive unit, coupled to the first disk drive unit by a bus;
a main cache memory, coupled to the bus, that caches data from at least one of the first disk drive unit and the second disk drive unit; and
a secondary memory[,]separate from the main cache memory and provided as part of the first disk drive unit, wherein the secondary memory has at least two sections, a first section used by the first disk drive unit to facilitate disk accesses and a second section used to cache data provided to the second section from the second disk drive unit.

2. (Once Amended) A disk drive unit, comprising:

an interface that communicates data to and from the disk drive unit;
a first disk platter that stores data; and
a controller coupled to said interface and said first disk platter, the controller providing and accepting data signals that control the disk drive unit and communicate data therewith, wherein said controller includes a memory having a first portion that is useable as cache for data that is [not] stored on said first disk platter and having a second portion that is useable as cache for data that is stored on a second disk platter that is separate from the disk drive unit, wherein said second portion is provided with data from said second disk platter.

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3. (Once Amended) A data storage device comprising:

a first section of onboard volatile memory containing data for the storage device;
and
a second section of onboard volatile memory associated with the data storage device and used as a cache including data cached from at least one other data storage device, wherein the second section of onboard volatile memory is provided with data from the at least one other data storage device.

8. (Once Amended) A data storage system comprising:

a first disk drive including a section of onboard memory associated with the first disk drive and including an interface that handles data communication to and from the first disk drive;

a second disk drive that provides data to the first disk drive via the interface; and
memory [for caching] that caches data of the data storage system, said memory including said section of onboard memory associated with said first disk drive wherein said section includes a portion of data cached from at least said second disk drive and wherein data from said second disk drive is provided to the onboard memory.